

THE REHEARSAL.

LEGION Distracted, on the News of the late Victories. And for fear of the Occasional Bill, &c.

From Saturday August the 19th, to Saturday August the 26th, 1704.

Country-man. **H**OW now, Master *Observator*, why so *Grumpy*? I never saw thee in such a Humour all the Days of my Life. My *Otto-ber* makes thee *Grin*, but it does not make thee *Laugh*. And it has been so with thee ever since the News of our Glorious *Victories* both by *Land* and *Sea*.

Obs. I must put a fair Face upon it. But it is no *Glorious Victory* to me. Nor to Thee neither, if Thou had'st Sense.

Country-m. Thou *Mazes* me, Master, Art thou *Dreaming*? Or has the *Hag* Rid thee last Night? Come, let me *Understand* a little.

Obs. Art thou not True to your *Cause*, to Restore our *Common-Wealth*? Whose *Health* thou hast *Drank* in many a *Bumper*, by the Name of old *Puss*, at our *Calves Head Feasts*.

Country-m. I hope you don't *Mistrust* me, Master; I'll spend the last *Drop* of my *Blood* for the *Good Old Cause*.

Obs. I doubt not thy *Good Will Countryman*, therefore I will open my *Heart* to thee. Thou know'st what *Pains* I have taken to *Blacken* the *Present Ministry*, I mean all of them that are not on *Our side*.

Country-m. Right! Master, That has been the sole Business of all thy *Observators*.

Obs. Besides, turning the *Revolution* upon the Foot of the *Deposing Doctrin*, and the *Power* of the *People*. Taking no Notice at all of the *Abdication*, upon which the *Convention* went. We spoke of this last Saturday; wherein I Answer'd fully whatever cou'd be Objected to the Contrary. Now, by this, **C**ountry-man, we *Preserve* our *Right to Depose* what *King* or *Queen* we Please. And have full *Liberty* and *Property* to Justifie the *Glorious Revolution of Forty One*. And if any *Dare* speak against it, even upon their *Madding-Day*, of the 30th of *January*, we Immediately *Brand* them as *High-Fliers*, *Tories*, and *Tantivy-Men*, nay very *Perkinites*, and *Enemies* to the *Revolution*.

Country-m. There thou hast them *Fast*, my Boy.

Obs. Having *Fixt* this *Foundation*, We next come to *Apply* it. And that is done by *Af-spersing* all of the *Ministry* that are not for our Purpose, and making them *Odious* to the *Nation*. And then there is a *Ground* for a

New *Revolution*, as it was *Formerly*, and *Formerly*. Unless the whole *Ministry* be put in to the Hands of our *Friends*, who know what to do with it.

For this End, thou know'st I have *Bespattered* the *Bishops* and *Clergy*, both *Houses of Convocation*, the *House of Commons*, the *Council-Table*, the *Judges*, and put them All into my *List of Knaves*, in my *Observator*, Vol. 2. N. 99. And likewise thou know'st how *Villainously* I have Treated the *Duke of Marlborongh*, and *Sr. George Rook*, the *Commanders in Chief* both by *Sea* and *Land*. And then I Magnify'd the *Heroical Achievements* in the *Last Reign*, to *Disparage* them. And because the *House of Commons* pressed so hard the *Bill* against *Occasional Conformity*, we *Legion'd* and *Million'd* them to the Purpose all over the *Nation*. By this means we hop'd to *Get* a *New Parliament*, more to our own mind. And then how we wou'd have *Bellow'd*, and made *Interest*, to shew, That nothing was done either by *Sea* or *Land*. And therefore that it was *Necessary* the old *Ministry* and *Generals* shou'd be *Employ'd*, who had done such *Wonders* under *K. William*.

Now, **C**ountry-man, Consider what it is to be Disappointed of all these *Glorious Expectations*! To hear the *Church-Party Boast*, that more has been done in one *Summer*, under their *Administration*, than in all the *Ten Years War* before! Under a *Queen of the Name of Stuart*, than under a *Foreigner*! Under one *English* and *Royal-Born*, and an *Heart Entirely English*, who has Promis'd to *Encourage* and *Maintain* the *Church of England* as by Law Establish'd; and upon Queen's Speech all occasions of Promotions to any to the Parliament. Feb. 27 Ecclesiastical Dignity, to have a 1702. very *Just Regard* to such, as are Eminent and Remarkable for their *Piety, Learning, and Constant Zeal for the Church*; that by this and all other Methods, which shall be thought Proper, it may be securely Transmitted and settled to *Posterity*.

Now Men of *Constant Zeal* for the *Church of England*, as by Law Establish'd, will never think that it is an *Encouragement* to her, and a *Proper Method* to *Transmit* her *Securely Settled*, to *Divest* her of those *Securities* which the *Law* has already Given her. That is, the *Corporation Act*, and the *Test Act*, which De-barr

barr all from Places of Power and Trust who are not of her Communion.

Country-m. And how have we Got off from those Laws.

Obs. By a Notable Distinction. Is not a Man of such or such a Communion, while he is of it?

Country-m. Most Certainly, Sir.

Obs. Therefore, We go to Church, Receive the Sacrament upon our Knees, which we us'd to call Idolatry, and Conform to a Tittle with all the whole Liturgy, Rites and Ceremonies, which we Give as the Reasons of our Non-Conformity. Then who can say we are Non-Conformists! We are not surely so, at that instant while we are Conforming. And so we are within the Letter of the Law, tho' we Return to our Conventicles next Day; And Rail as much at the Church as Ever.

Now the Constant Zealots for the Church Establish'd (whom the Queen has Promis'd to Maintain) call this an Eluding of the Law. Besides the vile Hypocrisy in this Practice. And therefore have brought in a Bill (which we have Twice Thrown out) to Explain those Laws, not to have Meant Occasional-Conformity only, but a Constant Conformity to the Church Establish'd. It being Impossible for those Laws to have any other meaning, than not to Trust those who were not Truly and Sincerely in the Interest of the Church Establish'd, with such Places of Power as to be Enabl'd to Destroy her.

As when we made Laws to Exclude the Malignants, and all Friends of the Anti-Christian Episcopal Hierarchy, in our Blessed Reign. We wou'd have Mumbl'd the Rogues, if they had offer'd to have Eluded our Laws, by an Occasional and Hypocritical Conformity. We wou'd soon have let them know, what was the True Import and Meaning of the Law, with a Halter about their Necks.

Country-m. All in good time, Master.

Obs. Alas? When now? *Country-man*, These Victories in the Hands of Church-men, have stopt our Mouths. What shall we say? How shall we Rail at the Ministry next Session of Parliament? How do we know we shall Procure a New Parliament? In which of our Administrations can we Pretend the Publick Treasury was so Frugally and yet Honourably Manag'd? In supporting such vast Alliances, and Carrying our Arms into the Heart of Germany, where English Colours were Never seen before. And then the Success—[Oh! That Torments, our Souls] which has Attended all this! Then they'll be comparing this with the other sort of Successes which we had, when Foreigners Commanded our Troops, at Steenkirk, Landen, and along, &c. for Ten Years together. They'll mind us of the Address made by the House of Lords to K. Will. That the Commander in Chief, under his Majesty, of the English Forces, should be a Natural-Born-Subject of his Majesty's. And Complainig of the Loss of Honour to the English Abroad, in the

Post allow'd them, and Stipulated in Former Reigns, as well as Dishonour thereby to the Crown of England. And humbly Intreating that so many Foreigners shou'd not be Employ'd, particularly in the Tower of London over the Stores, Arms, and Office of Ordnance, &c. Of all which he took no Notice. The Foreigners still carry'd it. They'll say, That Foreigners will still employ Foreigners, and Trust them before the English. And theace Represent to Us the Happines of the Crown being again Return'd to the True Line of the Stuarts, which we resolv'd to Extirpate, as we nastily Discover'd in the Informations p. 134 Annex'd to the Account of the Rye-House Conspiracy. But the same Resolution was Renew'd, with Vows, by some of the Chiefs of Us, upon the Execution (which we call Martyrdom) of L. R. And I'll tell thee *Country-man*, We had it in full Scene, and cou'd hardly have been Disappointed, but for these, O these late Victories, which have broke all our Measures.

Ten to one, but the Bill against Occasional Conformity may Now Come on again, and be Carry'd. Which if it be not, the Corporation and Test Acts, the only things that now Hamper Us, are Gon for Ever. And Occasional Conformity, having been so oft Debated, and Nothing Enacted against it, will pass and be Hereafter Understood, as the True and Genuine Meaning of the Corporation Act, and the Test Act, and that Nothing more is Required by them. And then let the Constant Zealots see how their Church Establish'd will be secur'd and Transmited to Posterity! You know there is an old saying, New Lords, New Laws. And that Every Dog has his Day.

Country-m. That is, Long look for comes at Last. I like not these Delays and Hopes I'd be Doing. Is there nothing now to be set Forward? Is your Heart in your Hose? Come Pluck up, Master, I'll stand by thee.

Obs. I am a little Down at present. But in my Next, I shall shew thee what is to be Done. And how our Matters are to be Order'd. I am Going to Council Learned in the Law. Therefore can stay no longer with thee Now.

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